

(a) whether the object of removing imbalances of the past in the matter of equitable distribution of essential mass consumption goods to the rural areas as well as in each of the States has been achieved; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) Measures in this direction are taken/being taken by State Governments to ensure equitable distribution of essential commodities covered under the public distribution system through the fair price shops and other licensed retail outlets. So far as levy-sugar is concerned, in order to remove the disparity between the urban and rural areas, the Central Government have refixed the State-wise quotas on the basis of 425 gms. per capita availability for the projected population as on 1-4-1978. The total levy sugar released for allocation to the States has been stepped up to 2.71 lakhs tonnes from 2.05 lakh tonnes released earlier and the higher quotas on this basis are being allotted from the month of December, 1977 onwards. The State Governments have been advised to gear up the distribution machinery to ensure distribution at the enhanced levels and also to treat the rural and urban populations in a similar manner for purposes of distribution of levy sugar.

#### Long-term credit to tea industry

279. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to help the tea industry in getting long-term institutional credit; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Tea Board has three major financial assistance schemes for the Tea Industry viz. (i) Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, (ii) Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme and (iii) Replantation and Rejuvenation Subsidy Scheme. Long Term credit for developmental purposes is also available to the tea industry from Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation, Industrial Development Bank of India and other State Financing institutions and cooperative banks in tea growing States.

#### आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्य

280. श्री बापूरावजी मास्तुरावजी देशमुख : क्या वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मार्च, 1974 की तुलना में मार्च, 1978 में आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में कितने प्रतिशत गिरावट आयी ?

#### † [ Prices of essential Commodities

280. SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROTRAOJI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the percentage of fall in the prices of essential Commodities in March, 1978 as compared to March, 1974?

वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल) : मार्च, 1974 की तुलना में मार्च, 1978 में कुछ महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक मूल्य सूचकांकों में आयी गिरावट का प्रतिशत नीचे दिया गया है ।

† [ ] English translation.

वस्तुयें	गिरावट का प्रतिशत मार्च, 1978/मार्च, 74
चावल	5.1
ज्वार	3.5
जौ	1.0
मक्का	17.6
रागी	6.4
चना	1.2
मूंगफली	3.9
रेपसीड तथा सरसों	3.1
बिनीला	1.0
कोपरा	0.3
जिंजली का बीज	0.2
चीनी	0.7
खांडसारी	26.3
गुड़	13.5
मूंगफली का तेल	6.9
गोले का तेल	3.3
बिनीले का तेल	12.5

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): The percentage fall in the wholesale price index number of some important essential commodities

†[ ] English translation.

in March, 1978 as compared to March, 1974 is indicated below:

Items	Percentage Fall March, 1978/ March, 1974
Rice . . . . .	5.1
Jowar . . . . .	3.5
Barley . . . . .	1.0
Maize . . . . .	17.6
Ragi . . . . .	6.4
Gram . . . . .	1.2
Groundnuts . . . . .	3.9
Rape & Mustard seed . . . . .	3.1
Cottonseed . . . . .	1.0
Copra . . . . .	0.3
Gingelly seed . . . . .	0.2
Sugar . . . . .	0.7
Khandsari . . . . .	26.3
Gur . . . . .	13.5
Groundnut oil . . . . .	6.9
Coconut oil . . . . .	3.3
Cottonseed oil . . . . .	12.5]

#### कपास का आयात

281. श्री बापूरावजी मास्तुरावजी देशमुख : क्या वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मार्च, 1977 और 1978 को समाप्त होने वाले वर्ष में कितनी कपास का आयात किया गया ; और

(ख) कपास आयात करने के कारण क्या थे ?